



BUFFALOBERRY PATCH

BY GREG FREEMAN, DEPARTMENT NEWS EDITOR

Boaters Reminded to Review Navigation Rules

Whether you're navigating a boat on water or a vehicle on blacktop, many of the same rules apply – courtesy to others is one of them.

Something that has become troublesome on some waters is anglers anchoring their boats under or directly in front of bridge openings.

Nancy Boldt, North Dakota Game and Fish Department water safety coordinator, reminds boaters that it's against the law for a watercraft to obstruct or tend to obstruct ordinary navigation. "A vessel engaged in fishing shall not impede the passage of any other vessel navigating within a narrow channel," she said.

Anchoring under bridges interferes with normal boat traffic and causes congestion, as does a row of boats anchoring outside a bridge opening.

Terry Steinwand, Department director, said it goes beyond rules and regulations. "It's simple courtesy not to obstruct an area and deny another person the opportunity to pass through to their fishing spot," he said.

Quizzing Anglers

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department is conducting creel surveys on the Missouri River System and Lake Audubon in 2006.

Creel surveys on the Missouri River/Lake Oahe and Lake Sakakawea will run through September, while the Lake Audubon survey continues through ice fishing season. Clerks will be at various places at different times.

Creel survey information is useful in assessing angler demographics, harvest and catch rates, catch-and-release information and angling effort. Anglers are asked to cooperate with creel clerks, and answer questions honestly, as interviews take only a few minutes. Information obtained is kept confidential.



CRAIG BHLIRE

Keep That Firewood Clean

North Dakota does not yet have the emerald ash borer, and state forest managers would like to keep it that way.

That's why the North Dakota Forest Service is urging residents and nonresidents alike to obtain their outdoor campfire wood from local sources and not transport it within the states, or between states.

"It could cause substantial damage," says Michael Kangas, forest health specialist for the NDFS, of the invasive insect that is aggressively attacking ash trees in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio.

The emerald ash borer is a wood-boring beetle that is native to eastern Asia. It was discovered in Michigan in 2002 and is

estimated to have killed 15 million ash trees already. Kangas says if it reaches North Dakota it would be "worse than Dutch elm disease," since green ash is one of the more abundant trees in the state's community forests, native woodlands and rural tree plantings.

While the beetles are moving slowly on their own, Kangas said that transporting of infested ash firewood could quickly establish the emerald ash borer in another part of the country. While state and federal quarantines are in place to prevent movement of ash wood, it's possible that citizens could inadvertently haul infested ash into the state.

In Michigan, stiff penalties are in place for people who move firewood out of emerald ash borer containment areas.

For more information on the emerald ash borer, visit www.emeraldashborer.info/, or contact the ND Forest Service at www.ndsu.nodak.edu/forests-service.

2005 Prairie Chicken Season Summarized

A total of 45 prairie chickens and 127 sharp-tailed grouse were taken during the state's 2005 prairie chicken hunting season.

The nine-day October season was open in two units – Grand Forks County (north unit) and in southeastern North Dakota (south unit). Fifty resident hunters were awarded licenses in each unit.

Forty-two hunters bagged 25 prairie chickens and 15 sharptails in the north unit, while 45 hunters took 20 prairie chickens and 112 sharptails in the south unit. Hunters had a season limit of two prairie chickens, and a sharptail limit of three daily and 12 in possession.

Seven hunters in the north unit were successful in taking two prairie chickens, 11 hunters were able to bag one, and 24 were unsuccessful. In the south unit, nine hunters took a limit of prairie chickens, two hunters were able to harvest one, and 34 were unsuccessful.

The Department received 390 applications – 229 for the north unit and 154 for the south unit. The application process and 2006 season information will be announced in July.



RON WILSON

Results are in on last fall's prairie chicken season in Grand Forks County and southeastern North Dakota.

Game and Fish Pays \$436,000 in Property Taxes

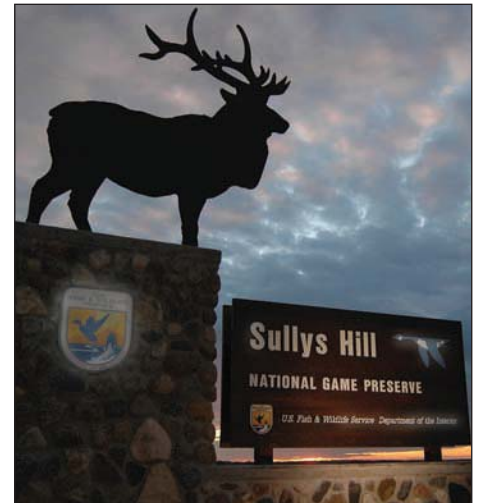
Each year the North Dakota Game and Fish Department pays taxes to 50 counties in which the Department owns or leases land. In February, Game and Fish paid more than \$436,000 for last year's taxes.

The Game and Fish Department owns or manages more than 185,000 acres statewide. This land is managed for wildlife habitat and public hunting, fishing, trapping and other compatible uses.

The payments, called "in-lieu-of-tax payments," are the same as property taxes paid by private landowners. Game and Fish has paid taxes on its lands since 1965.

The Department does not own or manage any land in Billings, Traill or Renville counties. Following is a list of counties and tax payments received.

County	Tax Paid	County	Tax Paid	County	Tax Paid
Adams	170.25	Grant	490.15	Ramsey	1,623.36
Barnes	4,803.01	Griggs	352.68	Ransom	1,454.40
Benson	2,800.33	Hettinger	2,769.01	Richland	14,950.58
Bottineau	4,506.86	Kidder	10,485.20	Rolette	17,901.42
Bowman	1,750.90	LaMoure	5,486.52	Sargent	12,931.89
Burke	799.35	Logan	1,185.16	Sheridan	65,111.35
Burleigh	24,568.70	McHenry	615.63	Sioux	402.86
Cass	6,519.75	McIntosh	5,151.35	Slope	1,884.63
Cavalier	23,389.88	McKenzie	19,533.12	Stark	242.94
Dickey	9,989.74	McLean	46,475.32	Steele	8,648.52
Divide	2,908.60	Mercer	13,847.49	Stutsman	6,208.77
Dunn	7,683.35	Morton	17,873.33	Towner	1,813.24
Eddy	3,750.36	Mountrail	11,068.91	Walsh	8,892.59
Emmons	2,385.82	Nelson	2,460.10	Ward	96.85
Foster	2,518.02	Oliver	1,716.64	Wells	31,378.97
Golden Valley	226.01	Pembina	6,911.74	Williams	6,195.06
Grand Forks	10,542.98	Pierce	1,015.88		



The annual Birding and Nature Festival will be held this month at Sullys Hill National Game Preserve.

Birding and Nature Festival Slated

Bird and nature enthusiasts are invited to attend the annual Birding and Nature Festival June 15-18 at Sullys Hill National Game Preserve.

Birding, wildlife and nature are all featured in a variety of free workshops and seminars including shorebirds of the prairie potholes, wildflower identification, birding by ear, nest and egg identification, global positioning systems, and more.

Guided bird walks and tours of Kellys Slough National Wildlife Refuge, Lake Alice National Wildlife Refuge and Sullys Hill National Game Preserve are also offered during the festival.

All festival events and tours are free and open to the public. For more information and to preregister for tours contact Sullys Hill Wildlife Refuge Society, PO Box 286, Fort Totten, N.D. 58335; 701-766-4272; www.sullyshillbirdfest.com.

Sullys Hill National Game Preserve is located southwest of Devils Lake near Fort Totten. It has long been recognized as one of state's natural treasures, having been set aside as a national park by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1904, and continuing in that capacity until 1931 when it was transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Features include a 4.5-mile auto tour through a big game enclosure and a 1.5-mile self-guided nature trail through wooded terrain.

NORTH DAKOTA OUTDOORS

PUBLISHED BY THE NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

On Television

 WILLISTON KUMV - Tuesday - 10 pm KXMD - Monday - noon	 MINOT KMOT - Tuesday - 10 pm KXMC - Monday - noon	 GRAND FORKS WDZ - Wednesday - 5 pm
 DICKINSON KQCD - Tuesday - 9 pm (MT) KXMA - Sunday - 9 pm (MT)	 BISMARCK KFYZ - Tuesday - 10 pm KXMB - Sunday - 10 pm CATV - Saturday - noon	 FARGO KVRN - Sunday - 9 pm

Corps Shoreline Policy Allows Motor Vehicles in Restricted Areas

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2006 Shoreline Access Policy allows public access to Lake Sakakawea's shoreline by motor vehicle in 16 designated areas. Recreationists are able to transport gear associated with day-use activities to and from the water's edge.

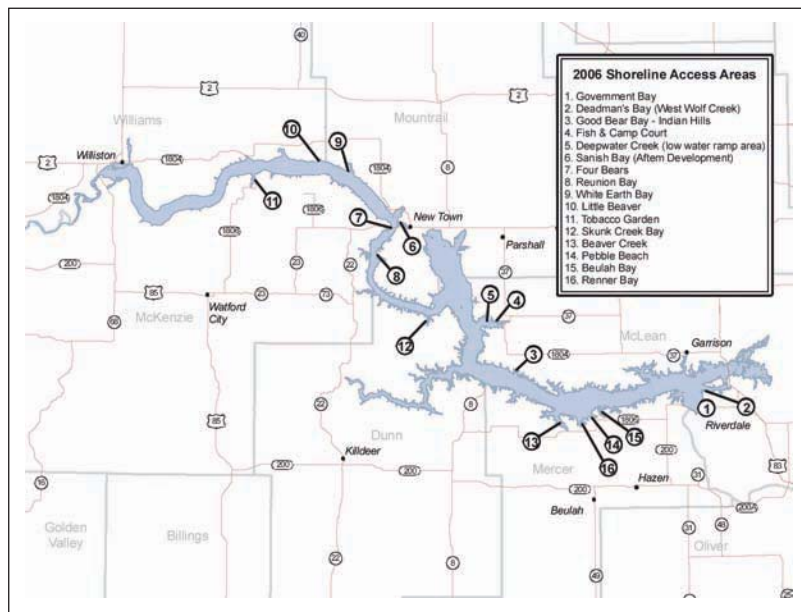
Motor vehicle designated areas accommodate shore anglers and other day-use visitors who are otherwise hindered by the distance between the normal pool shoreline and the existing water's edge.

"We are pleased with the corps decision to open these areas up to motor vehicles, as this will allow more people the opportunity to enjoy fishing along the big lake," said Terry Steinwand, director of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. "We hope to continue our work with the corps to get more areas open in the future."

There are some restrictions that apply to all designated areas, including no all terrain vehicles, no digging or collecting artifacts, no camping and no open fires. Rules are posted at the entrance to these areas.

Shoreline access points for the 2006 season are Government Bay, Deadman's Bay (west Wolf Creek), Indian Hills (Good Bear Bay), Deepwater Creek (low water ramp), Fish & Camp Court (Deepwater Bay area), Sanish Bay (Aftem Development), Four Bears, Reunion Bay, White Earth, Little Beaver, Tobacco Garden, Skunk Creek Bay, Beaver Creek, Renner Bay, and Beulah Bay (Pebble Beach and part of recreation area).

The corps is currently addressing this issue along Lake Oahe south of Bismarck, but access to the shoreline by motor vehicle will not be available this year.



BRIAN HOSEK

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Workshop

Women at least 18 years old who want to learn more about outdoor activities are encouraged to participate in the Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Workshop August 11-13 at Lake Metigoshe State Park, Bottineau.

Applications are being accepted and enrollment is limited to 100 participants. The cost is \$120 with an August 1 registration deadline.

The workshop, sponsored by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, offers 26 different seminars, each of which lasts more than three hours, according to Nancy Boldt, BOW coordinator.

Classes are held outdoors, and each session features 45 minutes of lecture with the remainder dedicated to hands-on instruction. Each session has room for 12 women, Boldt said, ensuring each person receives help and technical assistance.

Participants are limited to four sessions. New classes offered this workshop include dragonflies and butterflies, kayaking,



RON WILSON

waterfowl identification, birds and their nests, and furry creatures.

Other classes include fishing and fly-fishing, bird identification, plant identification, canoeing, predator calling, decoy carving, GPS adventure, archery and shotgunning.

Participants will stay in dorms and must provide their own bedding and towels. All camp facilities are handicap accessible. Equipment will be provided unless noted in the course description.

To receive a brochure and enrollment form, contact Nancy Boldt, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, 100 N. Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, ND 58501-5095, or call 701-328-6312, or visit the Game and Fish website at gf.nd.gov.

INSTANT LICENSING

Online at gf.nd.gov or by phone
800-406-6409

Most types of Game and Fish licenses and applications are available both online at the Department's website, or over the phone. Online license purchases have no surcharge, while instant licensing over the phone carries a service charge of \$4 for transactions of \$70 or less, and \$10 if the cost is more than \$70.



WARDEN STORIES

Paddlefish Tales

By Jim Burud

Every year during paddlefish season, state game wardens put forth a considerable effort to protect this valuable and fragile resource. We have officers in uniform, and many others working in plain clothes, mixing in with the snaggers who line the shores of the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers in north-western North Dakota.

A few years ago I was working in plain clothes with warden Corey Erck of Valley City on a portion of the Missouri River referred to by the locals as the West Hole.

Shortly after setting up our chairs and fishing rods, we noticed a guy on the opposite side of the river who had hooked a fish and was fighting it. Within a few minutes he landed the fish some distance downstream from where he had hooked it.

The man lifted the fish from the water and carried it along the shoreline back to his boat. Both warden Erck and I identified the fish as a paddlefish, a very distinctive fish that has a large rostrum extending from its head. This fish would be considered small, only about 25 to 30 pounds.

In North Dakota, each paddlefish angler is issued only one tag per season. Except for catch-and-release-only days on Mondays and Tuesdays, you can't release a paddlefish and must tag it immediately after landing it.

By the time this angler put the fish into the splash well of his boat, warden Erck and I still had not seen him tag it. Fish and equipment stowed, he headed downstream toward the U.S. Highway 85 boat ramp area on the Missouri, which is a couple of miles southwest of Williston.

Warden Erck called another warden, who was in uniform and stationed at the boat ramp, to notify him that that a boat was headed toward the ramp with a fish that might not be tagged. Forty-five minutes later the boat finally arrived at the ramp – a long time considering the West Hole is only a little over a mile from the ramp.

The warden at the ramp discovered no paddlefish in the boat, and the man denied having caught a paddlefish. After

double-checking the description we had relayed to him, and confirming that all the details matched, the angler was issued a citation for releasing a paddlefish after snagging it.

In most cases such as this, people will admit their guilt and pay the fine, but one of the options is a bench trial, during which the defendant argues his case in front of a judge, but not a jury. The judge then decides guilt or innocence, and sets the sentence if the defendant is found guilty.

After our testimony at the bench trial a few months later, the man who was issued the citation had his turn. His explanation was that he snagged a huge catfish, not a paddlefish, and the particular catfish he had apparently snagged that day, just happened to be the same catfish that he had caught in the same spot 15 years earlier while fishing with one of his buddies.

The reason he knew it was the same catfish was that he had first caught this fish, he had carved his initials into its forehead before releasing it back into the water. Upon catching the catfish a second time, he put the catfish into the boat and went downstream to show his buddy, the same buddy he was fishing with the day he carved his initials into the fish's forehead. When he couldn't find his friend, he said he released the fish back into the water.

After hearing all the testimony, the judge found the man guilty of releasing a paddlefish after snagging it. The judge didn't find much

humor in the story about the man carving his initials into the catfish's forehead. When the judge was explaining the sentence, he told the man, who had a past history of game violations, that he must not have learned from past experiences. The judge suspended the man's fishing privileges for one year and handed him a fine as well.

As with most cases made through undercover work, the key was a detailed description of what took place. That's why wardens are trained to record all their observations – even when they're trying to blend in as an average everyday angler.

JIM BURUD is the Game and Fish Department's district warden stationed in Kenmare.

**With Radio Host Doug Leier,
Game and Fish Outreach Biologist**
Saturdays – 11 a.m. (10 a.m. mountain time)

on the following ND Clear Channel radio network stations:
•KFGO-AM 790, Fargo •KKXL-AM 1440, Grand Forks
•KCJB-AM 910, Minot
•KLTC-AM 1460, Dickinson •KFYZ-AM 550, Bismarck
•KFAN-AM 1130, Twin Cities, Saturdays at 5 a.m.
(Tape delay from previous week)

Join Doug and guests for news and conversation that embraces everyone with an interest in North Dakota's Outdoors.

Wildlife Society Award Winners

The North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society honored a number of individuals during its annual awards banquet in March.



Will Meeks, with The North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society, presents Keith Trego, left, director of the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust, with the North Dakota Award.

Keith Trego, Bismarck, director of the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust and former longtime employee of the Game and Fish Department, was presented with the North Dakota Award, presented annually to a wildlife professional who has made outstanding contributions to North Dakota's natural resources over the course of a career.

The 2006 Habitat Award was presented to Kevin Willis, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bismarck, for his role as coordinator of the Northern Great Plains Working Group. The award recognizes a person or organization for significant contributions to fish and wildlife resources through the conservation and management of habitat.



Corey Erck



Mark Pollert

North Dakota Game and Fish Department district game wardens Corey Erck, Valley City, and Mark Pollert, LaMoure, received the Charles V. Pulver Memorial Law Enforcement Case of the Year Award for their roles in solving a large deer poaching case. Erck and Pollert seized 35 deer heads and hides, along with 900 pounds of venison from a farm building in rural Barnes County. Their efforts resulted in charges against nine individuals and the suspension of 11 years of hunting

and fishing privileges.

Dave Azure, Jamestown, manager at Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge, received the Past President Award for his work, time and effort in leading the chapter the previous year.

A Special Recognition Award was given to Bismarck attorney Paul Myerchin for his years of counsel to the chapter.

Five students were presented awards and/or scholarships for outstanding academic achievements, professional involvement, and potential as wildlife professionals. Graduate Student of the Year awards were given to Sean Bertie, University of North Dakota, and Joe Allen, North Dakota State University. Undergraduate scholarships were presented to Pete Christensen, University of North Dakota, Renae Williams, North Dakota State University, and Darren Wheeling, Minot State University-Bottineau.



STAFF NOTES



North Dakota Game and Fish Department Director Terry Steinwand, left, congratulates Ken Sambor for 28 years of service with the Department.

Sambor Retires

Longtime Game and Fish employee Ken Sambor retired May 1 after 28 years of service. He started his career in 1978 as a district game warden stationed in Stanton, and has been the North American Waterfowl Management Plan Coordinator since 1996.

Sambor retired from Game and Fish to accept a position as the Northern Great Plains Joint Venture coordinator, which covers parts of the Dakotas, eastern Montana and Wyoming, and northwest Nebraska.

NGPJV is a partnership for all bird conservation.